Decline in sales of Northern Region of AIR India

463. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Region of Air India has reported sharp decline in the cargo revenue of the area and failure to achieve targets in respect of passenger sales;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the profits earned by Northern region of Air India during 1990-91, 1991- 92 and 1992-93 till 31st December, 1993 in comparison to 1987 to 1990 financial years, according to the financial report; and

(d) the outstanding dues of Air India against various organisation including Private Parties during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) while there has been no decline in cargo sales or passenger sales in Northern Region of Air India, the revenues have been marginally below target.

(b) Some of the factors that contributed forwards the regions's failure to meet revenue target are:

— Increased competition.
— Industrial unrest within Air India.
— Disturbances in the country, particularly Punjab.

(c) Region-wise profit is not calculated and as such this information is not available.

(d) Outstanding dues to Air India during last 3 financial years are as follows:—

(Rs. In lakhs)

Categories of Parties	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Government Parties	492.48	769.60	947.15
Public Sector Undertaking	161.41	89.88	208.36
General Sales Agents	132.17	102.09	148.75
Agents	751.47	794.85	520.22
Airlines	55.33	31.75	28.41
Commercial Houses & Private Parties	184.19	259.51	305.19
Total:	1777.05	2047.68	2158.08

Repealing of Air Corporation Act

464. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Corporation Act was repealed and Air India and Indian Airlines were converted into Public Companies under the Companies Act;

(b) the reasons and the circumstances for effecting the change through an ordinance; and

(c) the fall-out on air services in the country particularly, the Private air companies operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In accordance with the Notification issued by the Govt. in pursuance of the Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings & Repeal) Ordinance, 1994, the Air Corporations Act, 1953 will stand repealed and the undertakings of Indian Airlines and Air India shall stand transferred to and vested in Indian Airlines Ltd. and Air India Ltd. respectively with effect from 1st March, 1994. The statement explaining the circumstances which necessitated promulgation of the ordinance has been laid on the table of the House on 21.2.94.

(c) With the repeal of Air Corporations Act, 1953, monopoly of Indian Airlines and Air India on operation of scheduled air services would be extinguished and private operators would be able to apply for permission for operation of scheduled air services subject to the terms and conditions precribed in this regard.

Disposal of grounded Westland Helicopters

465. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned ""Westland copters cause heartburn at Pawan Hans" which appeared in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated the 2nd February, 1994;